ACADEMIA DEL ARTE

One of the five Arts in Public Places committees of the Museum Without Walls has been at work in the Pajaro Valley area. Open meetings revealed strong interest in developing arts related to Chicano culture, and also dedicated leadership in Enrique Ante, Eduardo Carillo and Ralph D'Olivera. As a result, the Academia del Arte project was conceived, and a proposal was submitted to the Governor's Discretionary CETA program, requesting staff positions. Soon, an $80,000 grant was awarded, ten positions have been filled, and the program is rapidly taking form.

The Academia del Arte will organize film festivals, mural projects, art exhibits, historical documentation, music & dance festivals, all focused on Chicano culture. The Academia is planned to develop into a cultural communications center, and the organizational core of a regional Arts and Crafts Center in the County park at Pinto Lake. Program emphases include encouraging understanding and appreciation of Chicano culture, and encouraging a new arts and crafts industry in the Pajaro Valley, to broaden the economic base of this primarily agricultural area.

More information on the Academic del Arte will be included in future newsletters, as this new program locates offices, and starts to grow.